

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for removing metal compounds from waste water comprising:

(a) means for simultaneously adjusting the pH of the waste water, aerating the waste water and agitating the waste water all integrated into a single reaction tank;

(b) means outputting water from element (a) and for adding a polymeric flocculating agent to the water outputted from element (a);

(c) thickener means connected to element (b) for separating water from floccules and water including metal compounds; and

(d) means for outputting supernate water, and water and floccules including metal compounds from element (c) and for the adding of a polymeric flocculating agent to said water and floccules including metal compounds outputted from element (c);

(e) means for removing additional water from said floccules;

(f) means for transporting said additional water from element (e) and said supernate water from element (c) to a polishing means; and

(g) means for removing water from said polishing means.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the thickener means is a rotary thickener means.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the thickener means is a rotary drum thickener.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for removing additional water from the floccules is a press means.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the press means is a cooperative belt filter press.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the polishing means is a polishing pond.

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